Directors Report – U9 2020/2021 Season:

March 18, 2021

At the start of the 2020 season there were 76 registrants. The season started out with preconditioning skates on October 3, 2020. There were 11 girls interested in playing on an all girls team so a U9 sharks team was created and coached by Bryce Bohun. We were able to have two ex sharks players that were back in the community taking online school help out. We had 6 teams in total and since the uncertainty of covid was looming it was decided to all stay in our own house league and play each other.

Each team had Covid Rep volunteers making sure kids and spectators were signed in properly using the RAMP app system. Thank you to those volunteers. Overall, this system worked really well and was openly adopted quickly rather than using paper and pen.

All coaches were to complete criminal record checks and the proper coaching requirements. A new Safe Return to Play requirement was added to include Covid 19.

The first ice times for team practices started October 31, 2020. Eight ice times were given per week and teams were rotated through sharing ice.

Half ice games are still required in U9 until Jan 1 of every year so a new set of bumper pads were purchased for the ACC.

The first and only games were played November 20th and 21st before Covid restrictions were put in place.

After the temporary shut down in December, we had 15 players opt out and take a prorated refund.

Once hockey resumed in January of 2021 some players were shuffled around to make 5 teams. Practices went down to 2 groups of 8 per team and to 45 minutes each. Coaches were responsible in deciding which kids were to skate in each of their groups. Overall, this went fairly smoothly and kids were developing nicely with the extra time put into development.

February 27th Trach Power Skating was able to come out and run a power skating session for the U9 players. This was very well received from the coaches and not only aided in an opportunity for development with the players it was also a learning experience for the coach on the ice.

March 6 and 7 the U9 female players were asked to join in the female festival hosted by SHA in North Battleford. This was very well received and overall a positive experience for the girls. This will be an excellent addition to the female program next year.

Two goalie training sessions were held on February 26th and March 5th with Jean Fauchon. Six goalies and 2 coaches signed up for this and again this was another positive well received experience. The goal of this training was to get some more kids interested in goalie as there wasn’t the same opportunity as other years with no games being played.

Overall, the 2020/2021 hockey season was a surprise to many. Many coaches and parents were thrilled to see the development of the players come so far. It will be interesting to see them play games in 2021/2022 (fingers crossed). Approximately 26 players will remain in U9 for the 2021/2022 season.

Recommendations for 2021/2022 Season:

* Have 1-2 league teams
* Option to host a U9 A tournament for the league teams
* Host a house tournament weekend
* Have coaches training on ice with Trach or equivalent
* Continue goalie training sessions
* Communicate with the North Stars to possibly have them come out for developmental/fun skates

A huge thank you to all the coaches and assistant coaches. This year was unlike any and your time and commitment to all the U9 players is appreciated. Thank you to all the parents for following the Covid guidelines and restrictions. Thank you to all the Covid Rep volunteers for your time and commitment. Everyone made the best out of this hockey season and I am truly proud at how far these skaters have come and how smoothly this year went given the circumstances.

Thank you and kind regards,

Jolene Strain

BMHA U9 Director